

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page 1, line 5 with the following paragraph:

~~Not Applicable~~ This application is a divisional of copending application Serial No. 09/709,926, filed November 10, 2000.

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page 4, beginning on line 4 with the following paragraph:

With specific reference to Fig. 2, a case 202 has a top 204 and a bottom 206. The top 204 is composed of first and second minor or dust flaps 208A, 208B (shown in dotted lines) and first and second major flaps ~~[[2108A]]~~ 210A, 210B. The first and second minor flaps 208A, 208B are folded down below the first and second major flaps 210A, 210B~~[[,]]~~. The case 202 is sealed by glue, tape or other appropriate means.

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page 4, beginning on line 9 with the following paragraph:

Returning to Fig. 1, the conveyor 102 has a first end 114 and a second end 116. The conveyor 102 is adapted to move the case 202 from the first end 114 to the second end 116. In the preferred embodiment, the conveyor 102 is a drag conveyor. The drag conveyor 102 has two chains 118A, 118B, one on each side of the conveyor 102. A conveyor surface 120 is composed of a plurality of cross-bars ~~[[120]]~~ 121. The case 202, as it moves down the conveyor 102, is guided by an adjustable side guide 122 running substantially the length of the conveyor 102 and a plurality of aluminum bars 125, known as flight bars. The aluminum bars 125 are used to position the cases 202 at predetermined intervals along the conveyor 102 and to drag the

cases 202 along the conveyor surface 120. A drag conveyor is well known in the art and is therefore not further discussed.

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page 4, beginning on line 9 with the following paragraph:

The upper carriage assembly 604 includes a platform 608 underneath which are mounted four supporting blocks 610A, 610B, 610C, ~~[[610D]]~~ (only which three are visible). The supporting blocks 610A, 610B, 610C, ~~[[610D]]~~ have apertures through which first and second horizontal guide bars 130A, 130B run (see Fig. 1). The first and second horizontal guide bars 130A, 130B are mounted to the supporting structure 128.

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page 12, beginning on line 3 with the following paragraph:

After a case 202 has been loaded onto the conveyor 102, the control system 140 advances the conveyor 102 until the loaded case has reached a second station 802. A sensor (not shown) is mounted below the conveyor 102 and is used to sense when a case 202 has reached the second station ~~[[804]]~~ 802. Preferably, the sensor detects the aluminum bar 125 behind the load case 202. The sensor may be a proximity sensor, photo-detector or other suitable sensor.

**Applicant : Ours et al.**  
**Preliminary Amendment**  
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**Attorney No.: 60,527-037**

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page 12, beginning on line 9 with the following paragraph:

The first top cutting device 124 is positioned ahead of the second station 802 such that the top 204 of the case 202 is cut along the sides as discussed above by the first top cutting apparatus 124 as the case 202 moves toward the second station ~~[[804]]~~ 802.

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page 12, beginning on line 12 with the following paragraph:

While the loaded case 202 is stationary at the second station ~~[[804]]~~ 802, the control system 140 controllably actuates the second top cutting apparatus 126 to cut the top 204 from one side to the other (as discussed above), completing the H-shaped cut pattern.